

Hawaii Marine

Follow the leader



Cpl. Colby Brown | Regimental Combat Team 5

Lance Cpl. Ryan Meyer momentarily halts during a security patrol, Sept. 30. Meyer, from Stafford, Va., is a rifleman with 3rd Squad, 4th Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. A point man leads each of these partnered Afghan National Police and Marine patrols. The point man plays a critical role in daily operations for coalition forces in southern Helmand. Read more on page A-6.



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Sterling Cale, a former sailor and retired Army sergeant major, addresses an audience of Marines and sailors at Hangar 105, Oct. 7. Cale, 89, was stationed at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked on Dec. 7, 1941.

One if by land, 236 if by sea

MCAS celebrates Navy's 236th birthday

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

Marines and sailors of Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay celebrated the Navy's 236th birthday at Hangar 105, Oct. 7.

Petty Officer 1st Class Devaye Kelley, air traffic controller, MCAS, kicked off the party by sharing a brief history of the Navy with the unit. The Marines and sailors, accompanied by the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band, then sang "Anchors Aweigh."

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Pellegrino, commanding officer, MCAS, credited the nation's freedom to the efforts of the Continental Navy, Marines and Army serving during the revolutionary war. He described the modern day Navy as having "total and complete dominance in the sea and the air above the sea."

"It's because of the Navy that Marines are allowed to be expeditionary. There's no way that the Marine Corps can do its mission without a strong Navy," he said.

After reading a special Navy birthday message from Gen. James Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, Pellegrino introduced guest speaker Sterling Cale, a former sailor and retired Army sergeant major.

Born in Macomb, Ill., Cale, 89, enlisted in the Navy and became a hospital pharmacist's mate. He was assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital at "C" Landing at, then, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, and later transferred to the shipyard dispensary.

On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, Cale had just finished his night shift at the shipyard dispensary and was signing out when the Japanese attacked. He broke into the armory to get weapons, and was later given a court martial for doing so.

"Fortunately the next day President Roosevelt declared war on Japan so they called me back in [and] I got an award for breaking into the armory and a carton of cigarettes," Cale said with a smile.

For six weeks, Cale was at the site where USS Arizona sank, retrieving more than 100

Cutter says 'aloha' to CPRW-2 Ramsden takes helm as new commodore

Pfc. James A. Sauter
Combat Correspondent

Navy Capt. Christopher P. Ramsden relieved Capt. David C. Cutter as commanding officer of Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2 at Hangar 104 on Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay Thursday.

Ramsden was "welcomed aboard" the same way a new skipper would take command of a ship at sea, but with a special Hawaiian style greeting accompanied by traditional flower leis.

"I'll greatly miss being a part of the dynamic sailor and Marine team at Marine Corps Base Hawaii," Cutter said. "Their dedication and professionalism has enabled our aircrews to achieve unprecedented mission success across the globe."

Sailors stood at attention as Ramsden recited his orders and took command. His wife then presented him the highly respected Command at Sea badge, held by commanding officers lower than a one-star admiral. The sailors were able to shake hands with their new commodore as Ramsden greeted them.

See CPRW-2, A-7



Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber | Hawaii Marine

Navy Capt. David C. Cutter, outgoing commanding officer, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2, salutes sailors as he makes his way up to the stage for the change of command ceremony Thursday in Hangar 104. Capt. Christopher P. Ramsden relieved Cutter as commanding officer of the wing. Cutter will move on to U.S. Pacific Command at Camp H.M. Smith as director of the Commander's Action Group. "I'll greatly miss being a part of the dynamic sailor and Marine team at Marine Corps Base Hawaii," Cutter said. "Their dedication and professionalism has enabled our aircrews to achieve unprecedented mission success across the globe."

Combined Federal Campaign Hawaii underway

Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber
Combat Correspondent

Celebrating 50 years of fundraising and giving back to the community, the Combined Federal Campaign is aiming to raise more than \$6.5 million from Hawaii and other Pacific territories between Oct. 3 and Nov. 18.

The Combined Federal Campaign is the world's largest federal fundraising campaign established by presidential executive order under John F. Kennedy. The campaign's mission is to support and promote philanthropy through federal employee and service member volunteer programs.

"Our people are making a lasting

impression on people's lives each and every day," Air Force Maj. Gen. Peter Pawling, mobilization assistant, U.S. Pacific Command, said. "Through this fundraiser, we can continue to make a difference helping others."

Units aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii will host their own informational briefings with a CFC representative to discuss the charities and non-profit organizations service members can contribute to, and learn how their donations are collected and distributed.

"When I first went to the installation personal administration center session, I found a charity for autism in the CFC booklet," Lance Cpl. Nicole M. Hull, administrative clerk, Headquarters Battalion,

said. "My brother has autism and I wanted to help, not only my family, but other families as well."

Popular charities like St. Jude's Children Research Hospital, American Cancer Society and the American Red Cross are on the campaign's approved list of more than 2,500 charities to choose from.

"As these charities rely more on donations for funding, it's important for us to understand how important giving is to the nation and the community," said Warrant Officer Levi M. Muniz, CFC representative, Headquarters Bn. "As fewer people are enrolling in the program, we have to continue to raise awareness."

See CFC, A-7

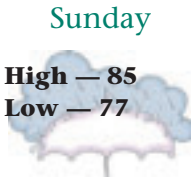
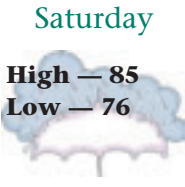
See NAVY, A-7



Renegades' revenge
Bandits outperformed in second half.
See B-4



Operation Makeover
CLB-3 Marine wins salon makeover.
See C-3



NEWS BRIEFS

Malama Ka ‘Aina starts Oct. 24

Malama Ka ‘Aina is a Hawaiian expression which means “Caring for the Land.” It is based on the way Hawaiians traditionally viewed interactions among their people and the environment.

As tenants of MCB Hawaii, we pride ourselves similarly in cultural stewardship and sustainability, and continue to make the installation the epitome of paradise by conducting a semi-annual clean up of the installation.

With the assistance of our base directorates, residing commands, civilian volunteers, and neighboring communities, “Malama Ka ‘Aina Week” begins in the morning on Oct. 24 and will conclude in the afternoon on Oct. 28.

Malama Ka ‘Aina is a major project that coincides with “Make a Difference Day,” which is nationally celebrated to increase awareness of our environment. Participants take smaller areas of responsibility, which facilitates better coordination and success covering more than 2,000 acres of land.

One planet — one community — one team. Can you make a difference? Contact the Base Inspector's Office at 257-8861 to volunteer.

2012 Tuition Assistance

The Education Center is now accepting 2012 tuition assistance applications for courses starting in October. Stop by the Education Center located on the first floor of Building 220 or call 257-2158 for details.

Dress blue uniform mandatory possession

As of Oct. 1, all active and reserve Marines are required to possess the dress blue uniform coat. Marines who joined after October 2008 received the coat in their initial seabag issue. All other Marines were given an additional uniform allowance over four years to purchase the coat, per MARADMIN 504/07 and the results of MCUB No. 209.

Maile Point, Coconut Island Closed to Public

Due to health and safety issues, Maile Point (on Coconut Island) at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology is closed to the public effective immediately and will remain closed until further notice.

CCME Scholarship Deadline Update

For the military community and spouses pursuing off duty education, the Council of Colleges and Military Educators has 10 scholarships of \$1,000 to award.

They will be awarded to five active duty service members (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard officer and enlisted, reservists and National Guard) and five military spouses.

The new deadline for scholarship applications is Nov. 1. For eligibility requirements and links to the applications visit <http://www.ccmeonline.org/scholarships.aspx> or contact Jason C. Szot at jason.szot@navy.mil or (850) 452-7268.

Hilltop Pool closure

The Hilltop Pool at The Officer's Club is closed for pump room repairs through Nov. 7. Call 254-7655.

Important phone numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCB Hawaii Chaplain	257-3552
DEERS	257-2077



www.mcbh.usmc.mil

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Boy scouts hold annual camp on base

Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber
Combat Correspondent

More than 100 Boy Scouts from Kailua, North Shore, and Marine Corps Base Hawaii camped at the Boondocker training area on base, Oct. 7 to 9 for their Koolau Camp-O-Ree.

During their two days spent here, Boy Scouts of America ran through the obstacle course, dirtied themselves in a martial arts sparring ring, held a cooking competition, and shared stories under the night sky. They also were able to spend the two days with a handful of Marine volunteers from Headquarters Battalion who participated in some of the activities with them.

“I really like it,” Michael Compton, 15, guide for Kailua Troop 311, said. “It’s a nice camp site and we are able to be here for free. This Camp-O-Ree would have been a lot harder to actually put together if the Marines didn’t help us out with the site.”

After an evening of setting up tents the competitions started Saturday morning after Marines demonstrated to the Scouts how to negotiate the obstacle course correctly.

The Scouts were then able to show their speed and strength to their peers as they executed each obstacle as swiftly as possible while in competition with each other.

Following the obstacle course, the scouts continued their competition into the Warriors Pit, a sparring area filled with rubber pieces used for martial arts training, where they had to go through a series of smaller obstacles.

“It’s a great experience for all of us,” Conner Chew, 11, Troop 117, said. “I think everybody likes the obstacles but it’s also really cool to just be out here with Marines and doing the competitions.”

These activities brought laughter and smiles, however, the Scouts were here for much more than a chance to climb a rope obstacle.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Michael Compton, organizer and supporter for the Boy Scouts in Hawaii, said his favorite part in everything was watching the growth of the young men into leaders.

“I’ve been a member of the Boy Scouts since 1967,” Compton said. “It gave me great experiences as a boy and a lot of fun as a young man. It’s a great organization that has shaped my life to this



Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber | Hawaii Marine

Lt. Col. Carolyn D. Bird, commanding officer of Headquarters Battalion, and her son wait to judge a dish Saturday at the Boondocker training area.

day and when I look at this [Camp-O-Ree] I love to see the patrol leaders taking their patrol through the competitions and developing themselves as leaders.”

Like the Marine Corps, the Boy Scouts have three core values they follow — duty to God, duty to country, and duty to self. Troop leaders try to instill these three rules into their Scouts every time they meet in hopes of creating a foundation for a successful life.

Saturday ended with a cook-off challenge where each troop had to prepare a dish for the guest judge, Lt. Col. Carolyn Bird, commanding officer, Headquarters Battalion. The smell of homemade chili, spaghetti, sloppy joes, and barbecue beef sandwiches filled the air as Scouts waited in their designated cooking areas for their chance to treat the judge. Some troops set out a table and served Bird as if she was dining in a nice restaurant, while others played music and sang to her while she ate.

Chew, was one of many who was confident in his troop’s food and had this to say about experience, “I know our food was really good, but before we served her it was sitting for awhile so it might have been cold. We don’t know,” Chew says with a smile on his face.

The two-day event ended with an awards ceremony in addition to the Scouts performing skits for their leaders and peers on Saturday evening. The crowd was filled with smiles and laughs as all the troops united and participated in the one last activity before wrapping up their event by singing Scout songs together.

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE



Sgt. Maj. Rene Salinas, squadron sergeant major, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, speaks about role models during the Hispanic Heritage Month Luncheon Oct. 10. Salinas was the luncheon’s guest speaker at Anderson Hall Dinning Facility. His unit recently returned from a deployment to Afghanistan earlier this year.

Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

EDITORIAL: OMG! What texting does to Marines

Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Callahan
Contributing Writer

There are a few things people do while using cell phones that have been irritating me recently. This is not just since I’ve been wearing a uniform and had extra rules to concern myself with, but for the majority of the time I’ve ever owned a cell phone.

The problem is how the lazy way of communicating in text message shorthand has become its own perverted form of “texted” words. Along with the short-handed versions of spoken words comes the lack of punctuation, too much sarcasm and not enough seriousness.

There are also perils to owning a smart phone, such as using them at inappropriate times in uniform. This can have an effect on Marines of any grade if used out of regulation. Once upon a time in the Old Corps, carrying a cellphone in uniform was against regulation all together, probably due to their brick-like design.

Marines are now faced with a different set of standards to follow in regard to good order and discipline. There has been a paradigm shift in the way people communicate, and Marines are pinned between technology and tradition. Some don’t know. Some don’t care. However, the situation is clearly getting worse.

Has modern technology revolutionized the cell phone? Not really. Now we’re completely wireless and mobile — from messaging, mail, global positioning systems, and application after application after application. Marines get caught up in their daily app habits and rely so much on their phones that they forget they are walking in uniform when using them. This often leads to a zombie-like shuffle

where Marines fail to address a those of higher rank passing by. This happens all around the Corps, not just on our small island. Too often I’ve seen junior Marines and even noncommissioned officers getting “devil-dogged” to death for having a smart phone to their face and losing situational awareness.

My biggest concern is how the “evolution” of the smart phone could be the degeneration of the English language. Marines are as guilty as our fellow civilians in using cell phone shorthand and lazily spelling out the messages in their texts. The brewing sea of horribly morphed “sentences” extends far beyond the overuse of abbreviations and acronyms to shorten a text message.

Some would argue, however, that this reoccurring trend is simply a shift in the way language is communicated, and that people have been changing language for thousands of years. I can partially agree with that. But never have we seen changes as drastic as what’s happening now with poor cell phone language etiquette. No excuses.

People have been abusing English in electronic communication long before the smart phone. The difference between then and now is that these new phones make it almost impossible to sound illiterate with automatic spell checking and automatic punctuation. The only conclusion I can draw is that people, particularly young Marines, are doing it on purpose.

So for those of us who can never understand a damn word anyone is texting to us, please extend us a courtesy — stop checking your phones constantly. Don’t be on them walking around in uniform, and for goodness sake, make an effort to send messages with correct grammar and a clear message. It speaks volumes. GTG?

AROUND THE CORPS

Marines arrive in San Francisco for Fleet Week 2011

Sgt. Heidi Agostini
1st Marine Division

SAN FRANCISCO — Marines and sailors with I Marine Expeditionary Force arrived in San Francisco today to showcase the Corps’ capabilities during Fleet Week.

Camp Pendleton’s I MEF partnered with the San Francisco Fleet Week Association and 3rd Fleet to execute the event. This opportunity allows service members of the Navy-Marine Corps team to connect with citizens of the Bay Area.

“We’re absolutely excited about the opportunity to get north and get into the bay,” said Maj. Gen. Melvin Spiese, commanding general of 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade. “We are pouring ourselves into this, both from the training perspective of what we think we can get out of it, but far more importantly, the opportunity to put on display to the people of San Francisco and the Bay Area what the Marine Corps is and what their Marine Corps means to them.”

The command element of 1st MEB, and elements of 1st Marine Logistics Group, 1st Marine Division and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing will embark and offload personnel and equipment to showcase the Marine Corps’ unique capabilities in humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

Marine units will demonstrate assets available for the Bay Area in response to a sudden crisis. The intent is to showcase amphibious nature, readiness and the



Cpl. Salvador R. Moreno | 1st Marine Division

Marines and sailors with I Marine Expeditionary Force and USS Bonhomme Richard enjoy the view as they man the rails passing under the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge for Fleet Week, Oct. 5.

ability to respond to disasters and to highlight the role the Navy-Marine Corps team can play in assisting disaster victims in medical surge capabilities.

“San Francisco is offering us an opportunity to interact with civilian authorities in ways we typically don’t, but could in the event of a significant natural disaster,” Spiese said. “We see this as an opportunity to do some training on things that do come across our way from time to time, but in particular in a mission that would be very challenging and one I suspect we would be tasked with in the event it were to occur.”

Since 1990, the Marine Corps has conducted more

to exchange ideas and procedures in the event of a natural disaster.

Marine Corps and Navy aviation demonstrations, community outreach events, senior leader seminars and military equipment displays and band concerts are scheduled for the Bay Area during Fleet Week.

“To see the positive interaction between our military and our citizens, I’m not sure we understand how unique that may be around the world,” Spiese said. “For me it’s reinforcement of all that comes out of the Constitution that builds the armed forces. San Francisco offers that.”

Critically wounded Virginia Marine dies three times, returns to the fight

Sgt. Earnest J. Barnes
2nd Marine Division (Forward)

MARJAH DISTRICT, Helmand province, Afghanistan — Lance Cpl. Matthew T. Earle, an assaultman with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, was critically wounded while conducting counterinsurgency operations in 2010. Now, the Manassas, Va., native is back in Marjah, inspiring his Marines.

Earle’s squad stopped at a local mosque to speak to an elder, when two men drove up on motorcycles and warned that insurgents were planning to ambush the Marines from multiple directions as soon as they left the mosque. The Marines heeded the warning and waited till dusk to leave.

Earle’s squad stepped off to head back to the patrol base nearby when insurgents opened fire from two directions, shooting rifles and machine guns.

Earle said he was running toward the side of the road and reaching for his rocket system, when he was shot with a 7.62 caliber round.

Earle said if he wasn’t reaching back at that moment, the round would have struck him in the arm, but instead

the round punctured his right lung, collapsed his left lung, and chipped a vertebra before exiting through his back.

“Last thing I remember was a big firefight,” Earle said. “There is a six-day window I cannot remember except for bits and pieces.”

The Marines and sailors on scene remember more.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew A. Dishmon, a corpsman with 3/6, who was directly in front of Earle on the patrol, said he was the only one to see Earle go down.

“Doc” Dishmon, as he is known by his fellow service members, said he yelled, “Earle’s hit!” None of the other members of the squad could hear him over the machine gun fire, and it was at that instant he made the decision to go back into the line of fire to rescue his friend.

“I ran to get him out of the middle of the road,” said Dishmon, as he recalled the scene. “I grabbed him, pulled him off to the side, and began working on him.”

Dishmon asked Earle where he was shot; Earle was only able to mumble



Earle

one word, “back.” Dishmon took off the wounded Marine’s personal protective equipment and tended to his wounds.

The corpsman said he placed an occlusive dressing over the entrance and exit holes the bullet made to stop Earle’s sucking chest wound. Unaware that both of Earle’s lungs were damaged, Dishmon quickly realized the situation was much worse than he originally assessed.

“I noticed his chest was unequal. I gave him a needle thoracentesis, (also known as needle decompression),” said Dishmon, referring to a procedure to relieve the pressure building in Earle’s chest. “He had two punctured lungs; that is why it filled up so fast.”

The battle stopped as the sun edged over the horizon, but for Earle, the fight for his life was far from over. The Marines assisting Dishmon requested a helicopter for a medical evacuation.

“From what I’ve gathered, I (died) twice on the ground and once in the air,” explained Earle. “At one time I guess my status was changed from ‘urgent’ to

‘routine killed in action.’” Once they got Earle to the hospital, the doctors were able to stabilize him and address his injuries. Earle attributes his survival to the quick actions of Dishmon and believes one wrong decision made by Dishmon could have meant Earle’s death.

“They said I had about a minute 30 left (to live) by their estimation when I got to (the hospital),” Earle said. “That minute and 30 seconds could have been Doc deciding what to do or waiting for a break in the fire.”

Earle was released for full duty shortly before his current deployment, but he said it was important to him to come back to Marjah. Now serving as a squad leader with the same company, Earle said he realized he could use his near-death experience to teach the young Marines under his charge. He said he ultimately came back to Marjah for his Marines and to show them one person can make a difference.

“A lot of people say one person can’t make a difference, but especially in the infantry, one person can literally mean the life or death of people,” Earle said. “Dishmon is a testament to that. If he hadn’t gone out on that patrol, I wouldn’t be here.”

1/12 artillery battery supports units, trains Afghans in Helmand

Cpl. Tommy Bellegarde
2nd Marine Division (Forward)

FIRE BASE FIDDLERS GREEN, Helmand province, Afghanistan — Screams of, “Mission, we’ve got a mission!” rifle through the Fire Direction Center. Marines in the tent stop what they are doing and begin compiling data at a furious rate. Outside, Marines in full body armor race toward M777A2 howitzers and rip protective netting away from the guns.

A unit in the area has spotted an insurgent emplacing an improvised explosive device in the ground and has called upon the Marines of 1st Platoon, Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, for artillery support.

The FDC calls down to the gun line with coordinates, and the Marines frantically shift the direction of the howitzer.

“Get me a shovel!” yells Denver native Sgt. Todd J. Galbaugh, Gun 3’s section chief.

He finds one and joins another Marine who has already started tearing through the earth to support the gun’s new position. They stop to take deep breaths of fresh air, waiting for the command to fire.

This scenario is common for the Marines of Charlie Battery, though not every mission ends with the Marines firing rounds, as units’ requirements sometimes change rapidly and they ultimately decide not to use artillery support.

“We get called out to the guns at least every couple of days, sometimes multiple times a day,” said Galbaugh. “We only shoot maybe 10 percent of the time, but we’ve got to be ready to support whoever needs it. We’re fast, we’re accurate and we’re always there to support.”

Always ready, the battery’s mission is to provide

timely and accurate artillery fires for units supported by 1/12 and train Afghan National Army soldiers to help them become more proficient in artillery, according to Mills River, N.C., native 1st Lt. Jacob D. Hudson, Charlie Battery’s executive officer.

The battery has many unique capabilities it utilizes to support local units.

“We can light up the sky if needed, we can provide friendly forces with a way to back off without being seen, and we can take out the enemy pretty effectively,” said Galbaugh.

Most of the missions have been for illumination support to prevent insurgents from planting IEDs at night.

“The main purpose of the illumination round out here is to deny the enemy the freedom of movement,” Galbaugh said. “There are nights where we will shoot a lot of (illumination) rounds, just light up the sky all night, letting the enemy know that we’re looking for them — they’re not going to be running around if there is a big (illumination) round in the sky.”

The platoon is set up in to two primary sections: the gun line, which is made up of the Marines who physically shoot the howitzers, and the Fire Direction Center, which receives the calls for fire and gives instructions for the Marines on the gun line after it has calculated the distance to and location of the target.

“We take (the information) the infantry will give us, and we change that into data the gun line can use and easily apply to their guns,” said Pensacola, Fla., native Cpl. Joshua Shores, a field artillery fire control man in the FDC. “That data is going to put the round on target.”

The Charlie Battery Marines have also been training the Afghan soldiers partnered with 1/12 to become more proficient in artillery. The ANA has made much



Cpl. Tommy Bellegarde | 2nd Marine Division (Forward)

Marines with 1st Platoon, Charlie Battery, prepare an M777 A2 howitzer after receiving a call for artillery fire.

progress and is slated to do a test fire later this month.

“They’re pretty new to artillery. They had some training up in Kabul before they came down here; however, it’s a new experience for a lot of them,” said Hudson. “We really try to focus on the non commissioned officers, specifically the howitzer section chiefs. Their gun line has progressed quite a bit. They’re at the point where they can set up and be ready to shoot.”

The Marines have been very successful supporting missions and training the ANA during their deployment and now look forward to finishing on a strong note.

“Everyone has pulled their own weight,” said Hudson. “The Marines have done an outstanding job of maintaining local security while providing fire support and conducting partnering operations with the ANA here at Fiddlers Green.”

AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY ROCKS DESERT IN FIRST ARTILLERY SHOOT

Story and photos by
Cpl. Jeff Drew

2nd Marine Division (Forward)

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Temperatures rose in the desert as Afghan National Army soldiers with 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, recently fired their first artillery round in Helmand province since their unit was formed in May.

The soldiers began their artillery training at the Kabul Military Training Center and, upon graduating, fell under the mentorship of Marines with the Combat Support Advisory Team attached to 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, and select Marines with Charlie Battery, 1/12.

The CSAT has worked side-by-side with the Afghan artillerymen since May to get the soldiers ready for their live-fire shoot. The ANA knew how to process a fire mission when the two military forces first met, but the Marines offered to increase their proficiency and skill. One of the biggest improvements made was in the Fire Direction Center, where Marines compute a target's range, direction and precise target location when a request for fire support comes in.

"In terms of the FDC we wanted to bring Bradley Naert processing time down," said St. Louis native 2nd Lt. Bradley Naert, an advisor with the CSAT. "It was taking them roughly 10-15 minutes to process a mission and have the data ready after receiving a call for fire; now they are down to six minutes, so that is a big success."

The Marine advisors often had no translators to instruct the ANA soldiers and had to learn Dari in order to teach them. When translators were available, the mentors found it best to teach them in order to better describe it to the ANA members. The Afghan soldiers seemed excited and motivated to learn a new skill, whether taught by Marines or through translators.

"When we trained the ANA, they were excited and paid attention to the training," said Lawrenceville, Ga., native Staff Sgt. Mitchell H. Hamilton, an advisor with the CSAT. "They learned and caught on very quickly. Even with the lack of interpreters at times, it was amazing to see how fast they caught on."

The soldiers put their new skills to the test during their first shoot in the Afghan desert. The first day the ANA and Marines arrived at the training area and began setting up the four Soviet-made 122 mm howitzer D-30 artillery cannons. Before long, the sun began to dip down below the horizon, and the soldiers sent their first volley of high explosive dual purpose artillery rounds down range.

Excitement erupted from the soldiers as they saw all of their training pay off. The day ended on a high note, leading to more anticipation and shooting for the second day.

"I was happy when we shot because we put in practice and it shows we understand what we have learned," said Afghan Sgt. Mowlad Wafa, a recorder with one of the gun sections. "I was happy to hit the target — so far we've had a successful shoot."

The second day of firing began early. The ANA soldiers gathered around the gun line, polishing their drill movements in anticipation for the arrival of the kandak commander and brigade general. They spent the afternoon and evening sending rounds down range, increasing their proficiency and becoming more confident with the weapon system.

"Artillery allows the ANA to provide that long-range fire when one of their friendly units comes under attack," said Fairborn, Ohio, native Capt. Mitchell Moore, the commanding officer for Charlie Battery, 1/12. "When the United States reduces (its) presence here, (the ANA) need to have that capability so when they operate outside the wire, they have that comfort umbrella of knowing wherever they are they have an ANA brother who can provide fire support."

The ANA soldiers' confidence began to show as they became more comfortable using the howitzers at the end of the second day of firing. Enthusiasm kept spirits high, and the Afghan soldiers showed they were capable and ready to perform for their leadership.

The final day of firing arrived and when the kandak commander and brigade general arrived, the Afghan soldiers snapped to attention, ready to demonstrate the full capabilities of the weapon system.

The soldiers manned the gun line waiting for a fire mission from the forward observers. ANA soldiers placed down range who call in targets. The Afghan soldiers executed properly when the call for fire came and, after being verified by their Marine mentors, the soldiers sent another volley of rounds into the air, eagerly seeking their targets.

The leadership was pleased with the demonstration, and the Marines said the training evolution was a success.

"The ANA are out here self supporting," said Moore. "We are offering advice and support; however, this is an Afghan-led training evolution. That is a real success from where we started when they weren't sure of themselves and lacked confidence. Out here you see that confidence growing and the capability that goes with that."



A section chief with 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, helps prepare his section's 122 mm howitzer D-30 artillery cannon. The soldiers spent the first day organizing the weapon system and fired several rounds on target as the sun dipped below the horizon.



Cpl. Alonso Arviso (left), an assistant section chief with Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, observes an Afghan National Army soldier with 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, as he fires rounds down range. The Afghan soldiers spent three days in the desert working with the 122 mm howitzer D-30 artillery cannons to increase the soldiers' confidence with the weapon system.



An Afghan National Army soldier with 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, looks through the sights of a 122 mm howitzer D-30 artillery cannon. The Afghan soldiers worked diligently to improve their skills with their artillery cannons. "Artillery allows the ANA to provide that long-range fire when one of their friendly units comes under attack," said Fairborn, Ohio, native Capt. Mitchell Moore, the commanding officer for Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. "When the United States reduces (its) presence here, (the ANA) need to have that capability so when they operate outside the wire, they have that comfort umbrella of knowing wherever they are they have an ANA brother who can provide fire support."



Staff Sgt. Mitchell H. Hamilton, an advisor with the Combat Support Advisory Team attached to 1/12, shows an Afghan National Army soldier with 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, how to use a compass to mark the position of artillery cannons. Hamilton has advised the ANA unit since its formation in May.

Follow the leader: the role of a point man

Cpl. Colby Brown
Regimental Combat Team 5

GARMSIR DISTRICT, Helmand province, Afghanistan — Someone always has to go first.

In Afghanistan, the Marine who goes first is the point man. He is the first to jump across a canal, enter a farm field and tread ground potentially laced with improvised explosive devices.

“Our squad’s area has good security,” said Lance Cpl. Tyler Wilson, a point man with 3rd Squad, 4th Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. “Knowing that there hasn’t been very much IED activity in our area is a good feeling. But when you come across something you need to check out or looks like an IED ... it’s definitely an ‘oh shit’ situation.”

The few responsibilities of a point man are of high importance.

His first responsibility is sweeping the patrol route for IEDs. Like a metronome, the point man’s arm sways back and forth with a combat metal detector attached. The constant, weighted motion causes most point men to build more muscle in their sweeping arm, making them lopsided.

“During the first couple of weeks my arm was numb from sweeping everyday,” said Wilson, from Virginia Beach, Va. “But you get used to that pretty quickly.”

There is a certain tone that every Marine dreads. It alerts the CMD user to a metallic presence in his immediate vicinity. Unlike the metal detector people at the beach use searching for loose change, this sound means danger is likely buried nearby.

“You have to make sure you know how to operate the [CMD],” Wilson added. “This beep means there



Cpl. Colby Brown | Regimental Combat Team 5

Lance Cpl. Ryan Meyer momentarily halts during a security patrol, Sept. 30. Meyer, a native of Stafford, Va., is a rifleman with 3rd Squad, 4th Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. A point man leads each of these partnered Afghan National Police and Marine patrols. The point man plays a critical role in daily operations for coalition forces in southern Helmand.

is metal below you and this beep means the batteries are about to die. You need to know how to get a good sweep, every time.”

The point man’s second task is to find a route. During the first weeks in Afghanistan, a point man must study his area of operation and make mental notes of natural landmarks.

As his deployment progresses, the point man will become more comfortable with his surroundings and more knowledgeable on every piece of his AO. When his squad leader holds a patrol brief, the point man will eventually no longer needs a map. Carrying a global positioning device for backup, the point man sets the pace and route to the villages his squad will visit on a given patrol.

“You have to know your area and be just as knowledgeable about your area as the squad leader,”

Wilson said. “My squad has a pretty big area, but [the squad leader] could give me a place to go and I would know how to get there, anywhere in the [area of operation.]”

The task of finding a safe patrol route is complicated by insurgent IED operations. A point man must think like an insurgent, remaining cognizant of IEDs placed at choke points in trails or regularly trafficked areas.

While the point man may be in front of the patrol, in the back of his mind lingers the worry of missing an IED.

“Always knowing that there’s a possibility that I could miss an IED and be hit by it stays in my head,” Wilson said.

The variety of IEDs found in southern Helmand makes catching everything laid by insurgent force a nearly impossible task. Despite this reality, point men still hold themselves responsible for every missed IED and, more importantly, for the safety of their fellow Marines.

“I miss something and one of the guys in my squad gets hit,” said Wilson. “That’s definitely a thought that stays in my head — that I could miss something and someone could get hurt.”

Marines on patrol frequently play a high stakes version of follow the leader. It is important for members of a squad to follow exactly where their point man goes while on patrol. If you stray from the point man’s path, you put yourself in unnecessary danger of stepping on an IED.

For Wilson, being a point man came naturally. “Not everybody is knowledgeable of their [area of operations] or can sweep for hours at a time,” said Wilson. “I take pride in my job.”

As the battalion nears the end of its deployment, Wilson remains in front of his fellow Marines, diligently clearing a path for them over the rugged Afghan terrain.

Island Warriors trade gifts, thanks with French Marines



Pfc. James A. Sauter | Hawaii Marine

Capt. Chris Richardella, Fox company commander, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, presents French Capt. Laurent Delaval, 8th Parachutist Infantry Regiment, a Hawaiian shark-tooth spearhead as a gift celebrating the end of the successful joint training exercise AMERICAL-2011 at Hale Koa Beach Oct. 7. “We are two great nations and two great militaries,” he said. “We appreciate you coming here and hoped you learned from us.” A platoon from Fox company will return Monday after completing their training in French New Caledonia. The exchange of U.S. and French marines helped strengthen military relations through learning from one another.



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Marines and sailors gathered together for celebratory food at Hangar 105, Oct. 7. Right, Petty Officer 2nd Class Timothy Willis, air traffic controller, Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, got some food during the Navy’s Birthday celebration. Willis is the youngest sailor in the unit. Both he and Cmdr. Eric Barkdull, MCAS executive officer, the oldest sailor in the unit, cut the ceremonial cake. The Marines and sailors of MCAS celebrated the 236th birthday of the Navy in Hangar 105 with a guest speaker, food, cake cutting ceremony and performances by the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band. Under the Continental Congress, the Continental Navy was born on Oct. 13, 1775, and in 1798, the Department of the Navy was established. Every year, sailors observe Oct. 13 as its annual birthday and celebrate with a birthday ball.

See NAVY A-7

bodies of the dead service members from the wreck. It wasn’t until 1974 when he returned to the memorial that he realized there were more than 900 men still in the fallen battleship.

“Now I go down and pay my respects to the men I left on the Arizona,” Cale said.

Cmdr. Eric Barkdull, executive officer, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Timothy Willis, a MCAS air traffic controller, cut the corner of a blue and white Navy birthday cake. Barkdull, 49, is the oldest sailor in the unit, and Willis, 23, is the youngest.

“We’re fortunate to be part of the most powerful Navy where we can project power anywhere in the

world,” Barkdull said. “We’re the envy of every nation as far as that goes, so appreciate that, appreciate what it took to get here ... we appreciate Mr. Sterling and his sacrifice and those of his day establishing that fact in launching us into being the most powerful Navy in the world.”

Willis, of Palmdale, Calif., enlisted in the Navy in 2007 to serve his country and travel. During his career so far, he has traveled to places like Thailand, Jordan and Dubai. He recently reenlisted for six more years and plans to retire as a chief petty officer or an officer. He finds being a sailor most rewarding when people see him in uniform, offer respect and thank him for his service.

“There’s no greater force out there

than a Marine air-ground task force in battle,” Pellegrino said. “There’s no way we can get to that battle without support from the Navy. We enjoy a great relationship with the Navy and that’s what makes us a strong force ... a lot of these battles, at least in recent history, were fought right here in the Pacific, in the Hawaiian Islands.

There were sailors deployed on ships who were probably younger than even the young Marines and sailors sitting here today. They went out in harm’s way and they did great things. It’s because of them that we’re able to stand here today ... and we’re able to gather today to celebrate the 236th anniversary. We honor them by doing this, we also honor you for taking a stand for your country as well.”

See CFC, A-7

To bridge the awareness gap, CFC has opened a new Facebook account for donators to track the status of the campaign with pictures and news of donations, charities and non-profit organizations. Statistics on the CFC-Hawaii website have shown that while fewer people are donating, the monetary amount of each donation has

increased over the past few years.

“I think the salary [service members’] receive is pretty good and we should spend some of that money on other people and not just ourselves,” Hull said. “It’s really great to help others that don’t have a lot.”

For more information about charities and donations, visit <http://www.cfc-hawaii.com> or contact your unit’s CFC representative.

CPRW-2, from A-1

“It’s always a good feeling to join a command that’s operating at such a high level,” Ramsden said. “I’m looking forward to working with CPRW-2’s military and civilian team.”

CPRW-2 provides training, standardization and administrative control for three operational maritime patrol and reconnaissance squadrons and one special projects squadron here. These units operate the P-3C Orion maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft for offensive and defensive missions, such as anti-submarine warfare and homeland defense patrols for enemy activity around Hawaii. The aircraft can act as part of or independently from carrier battle groups and other surface action groups.

“During the War on Terror, the Orion’s mission support shifted from a mostly nonorganic sea role to a mostly organic overland role,” Cutter said. “Then, as we shifted to more overseas contingency operations, we saw more of a balance between these roles.”

In addition to the Orion’s primary mission, CPRW-2’s squadrons have been called into service for multi-mission, command and control, surface search and surveillance, overland reconnaissance and anti-surface warfare missions over the decades.

CPRW-2 also dispatched units for humanitarian missions. Under Cutter’s charge, Patrol Squadron 4 deployed in support of Operation Tomodachi after an earthquake caused a tsunami that devastated Japan March 10.

“We’ll continue to maintain our primary focus of manning, training and equipping our squadrons to execute, missions around the world,” Ramsden said. “During this time period, we’re laying the foundation for the future of the maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force by preparing for the arrival of the new P-8s.”

The squadrons of CPRW-2 will receive new P-8 Poseidons in 2015 to replace their aging P-3C Orion aircrafts.

Cutter’s new assignment will be at U.S. Pacific Command aboard Camp H.M. Smith as the director of the Commander’s Action Group.

Ramsden was previously the deputy director for battle space awareness for the Joint Staff at the Pentagon.



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

236 Years of honor

Cpl. Marc Hendon, food service specialist, Anderson Hall Dining Facility, cuts the cake during lunch on Thursday. The Navy celebrated its 236th birthday on Thursday, with a special meal at Anderson Hall, including turkey, prime rib, crab legs, and shrimp cocktails.